

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A cuff for measuring physiological parameters of an appendage, comprising:

a hollow, rigid tube having an inner surface and opposed ends; and

a bladder having an inner surface, an outer surface, and opposed ends, the ends of the bladder being sealed to the ends of the tube to create an enclosed internal volume between the inner surface of the bladder and the inner surface of the tube and an external volume defined by the outer surface of the bladder and surrounded by the internal volume, the bladder having a normal, relaxed state, in which the internal volume is filled with a fluid and a retracted state in which the fluid is evacuated from the internal volume,

wherein the bladder is tubular in shape, and wherein the ends of the bladder overlap the ends of the tube, and

wherein the thickness of the bladder is greater where the ends of the bladder overlap the ends of the tube.

4. (*Previously presented*) The cuff of claim 3, wherein the bladder has a center portion between the ends and a transition region between the ends and the center portion, and wherein the thickness of the bladder is greater at the transition region.

5. (*Previously presented*) The cuff of claim 19, further comprising a fluid port extending through the tube and communicating with the internal volume, through which the internal volume can be filled with or emptied of the fluid.

6. (*Previously presented*) A cuff for measuring physiological parameters of an appendage, comprising:

 a hollow, rigid tube having an inner surface and opposed ends;

 a bladder having an inner surface, an outer surface, and opposed ends, the ends of the bladder being sealed to the ends of the tube to create an enclosed internal volume between the inner surface of the bladder and the inner surface of the tube and an external volume defined by the outer surface of the bladder and surrounded by the internal volume, the bladder having a normal, relaxed state, in which the internal volume is filled with a fluid and a retracted state in which the fluid is evacuated from the internal volume; and

 two stiffener ribs placed on the inner surface of the bladder, parallel to each other and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tube at diametrically opposite positions.

7. (*Previously presented*) The cuff of claim 19, wherein the bladder, in its normal, relaxed state, conforms to the appendage without any wrinkles or gaps and in its retracted state conforms to the inner surface of the tube.
8. (*Previously presented*) The cuff of claim 19, wherein the bladder is made of a material that allows the inside diameter to stretch at least to the diameter of the largest diameter of the type of appendage to be measured.
9. (*Original*) The cuff of claim 8, wherein the material is able to stretch approximately two to three times its original diameter and return back to its original diameter without deforming.
10. (*Previously presented*) The cuff of claim 19, wherein the bladder is made from a material chosen from the group consisting of a thin wall rubber and a thin wall silicone rubber.
11. (*Original*) The cuff of claim 10, wherein the material has a thickness of between 0.012 inch and 0.016 inch, and has a high tear strength.
12. (*Original*) The cuff of claim 6, further comprising a plurality of emitters and detectors positioned in the enclosed internal volume.

13. (*Original*) The cuff of claim 12, wherein the emitters and detectors are embedded in one of the stiffener ribs.

14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*Canceled*)

16. (*Previously presented*) A cuff for measuring physiological parameters of an appendage, comprising:

a hollow, rigid tube having an inner surface and opposed ends;
a bladder having an inner surface, an outer surface, and opposed ends, the ends of the bladder being sealed to the ends of the tube to create an enclosed internal volume between the inner surface of the bladder and the inner surface of the tube and an external volume defined by the outer surface of the bladder and surrounded by the internal volume, the bladder having a normal, relaxed state, in which the internal volume is filled with a fluid and a retracted state in which the fluid is evacuated from the internal volume;

a plurality of emitters and detectors positioned in the enclosed internal volume, wherein the emitters and detectors are placed on the inner surface of the bladder, and the emitters and detectors respectively emit and detect light through the bladder; and

a stiffener rib placed on the inner surface of the bladder, wherein the emitters and detectors are embedded in the stiffener rib.

17. (*Currently amended*) The cuff of claim 19, wherein the ~~emitters and detectors~~ emitter means and the detector means are positioned in a linear fashion parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tube.

18. (*Currently amended*) The cuff of claim 17, wherein ~~all of the emitters are~~ the emitter means comprise a plurality of side-by-side emitters and ~~all of the detectors are~~ the detector means comprise a plurality of side-by-side detectors.

19. (*Currently amended*) A cuff for measuring physiological parameters of an appendage, including volume or change in volume of the appendage, comprising:

a hollow, rigid tube having an inner surface and opposed ends;
a bladder having an inner surface, an outer surface, and opposed ends, the ends of the bladder being sealed to the ends of the tube to create an enclosed internal volume between the inner surface of the bladder and the inner surface of the tube and an external volume defined by the outer surface of the bladder and surrounded by the internal volume, the bladder having a normal, relaxed state, in which the internal volume is filled with a fluid and a retracted state in which the fluid is evacuated from the internal volume; and

~~a plurality of emitters and detectors~~ emitter means for emitting at least one wavelength of light and detector means separated from the emitter means by a separation distance for detecting the at least one wavelength of light emitted by the emitter means, the emitter means and the detector means being positioned in the enclosed internal volume for measuring volume or change in volume of the appendage, the number of emitters wavelengths of light emitted by the emitter means being governed by the number of physiological parameters being measured other than volume or change in volume, and the number of detectors detector means being governed by the need for spatial differentiation; and

wherein the bladder has a sufficient wall thickness and is made from a material tinted with pigments selected such that the bladder material will absorb the specific wavelengths of light emitted by the ~~emitters~~ emitter means to damp light piping but also allow for sufficient transmission of light through the cuff ~~in~~ into and out of the appendage to properly illuminate the tissue and to properly detect the light back-scattered from the appendage.

20. (New) The cuff of claim 19, wherein the bladder is made from a material tinted with pigments selected such that the bladder material also will achieve attenuation such as to decrease the intensity of the piped light to below the governing SNR of the detector means.